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CIA Plies War Critics With 'Clips'

By George C. Wilson
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Lawmakers speaking out against the Administration's Vietnam policies these days often get back more press clippings than they bargained for, thanks to the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sen. Clifford P. Case (R.-N.J.), for example, shortly after criticizing the Johnson Administration's conduct of the war, received a batch of teletype copy from the CIA showing how much hay the Communist press made out of his remarks.

The CIA runs what a spokesman there called a "courtesy clipping service, not a lobbying operation", to keep lawmakers posted on what the Communist press says about them.

The teletype transcripts are accompanied by covering notes saying the CIA believed the translation "might be of interest."

A CIA spokesman said there are no specific rules for this service of several years standing, adding that some lawmakers request it while in other cases the agency's legislative liaison officers decide on their own who should get it.

A member of Case's staff, when queried, could not recall requesting the translations or receiving them before the Senator made his recent series of speeches challenging Vietnam war policy.

Checks of the offices of such other war critics as Sens. Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.), J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) and George McGovern (D-S.D.) disclosed that they also have received the CIA service.

But so have such proponents of heavier bombing of North Vietnam as Sens. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) and John Stennis (D-Miss.).

One of the Senate's earliest doves, Sen. John Sherman Cooper (R-Ky.), said he could

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not recall getting any CIA copies of whatever the Communists might have said about his opposition to bombing North Vietnam.

"I've had this position forever," he said of his bombing stand. He added that repriates of foreign radio broadcasts would not change it, as the Administration well knows from direct talks with him.

Stennis—among the Senate's hawkier — assailed his dovish colleagues yesterday. He said the Vietnam war debate "which is running now

largely on the Senate floor, unfortunately, is definitely an aid and encouragement to the enemy . . . They'll hold out all the longer and fight all the harder."

Stennis's remarks come atop attacks on war policy dissent by President Johnson, Vietnam commander Gen. William C. Westmoreland and—most recently—Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

In light of this, some lawmakers suspect there is more than just courtesy in the CIA's special clipping service.

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